CUMMINGS SCHOOL OF
VETERINARY MEDICINE

Department of Infectious Disease and
Global Health

January 24, 2022

Dr. Ethan Fechter-Leggett
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
1000 Frederick Lane
Morgantown, WV 26508

Dear Dr. Fechter-Leggett,

The Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine (CSVM) at Tufts University is writing to enthusiastically support the proposed National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) study that aims to understand the occupational hazards of surgical smoke in clinical veterinary settings.

The NIOSH proposal on the occupational hazards of surgical smoke in veterinary clinical settings is of great importance, given the multiple occupational respiratory hazards present in veterinary clinical settings. The proposed research is needed to fill the current research gap on surgical smoke exposures in clinical veterinary settings, and the anticipated results have the potential to inform surgical smoke controls in this industry.

CSVM educates veterinary and graduate students who advance health and wellness for all species, and CSVM is dedicated to improving and promoting the health and well-being of animals, people, and the ecosystems we share. We support research that improves the occupational safety and health of veterinarians and veterinary staff, and CSVM is pleased to support these research efforts.

Sincerely,

Meera Gatlin, DVM, MPH
Assistant Clinical Professor, Public Health
Department of Infectious Disease and Global Health
Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine
Tufts University
200 Westboro Road, North Grafton, MA - 01536

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Veterinary Medicine

Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences
601 Vernon L. Tharp Street
Columbus, OH 43210
Telephone: (614) 292-7105

Dr. Ethan Fechter-Leggett
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
1000 Frederick Lane
Morgantown, WV 26508

Dear Dr. Fechter-Leggett,

The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine (OSU-CVM) is writing in strong support of the proposed study by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) on the occupational hazards of surgical smoke in clinical veterinary settings.

As one of the top five veterinary colleges in the United States, OSU-CVM puts a strong emphasis on providing students, faculty, and staff with a healthy environment. OSU-CVM trains veterinarians who go on to practice veterinary medicine throughout the country and world. Your proposal to study occupational hazards in clinical veterinary settings that could impact veterinarian respiratory health is of great importance, given the large data gap in this area. Your proposal has great potential to be translated into recommendations on surgical smoke controls and effective methods to promote such controls within the veterinary industry.

Just as our OSU-CVM graduates work towards the health and safety of the animals they treat, we support research that improves the occupational safety and health of veterinarians and veterinary staff. OSU-CVM strongly supports these research efforts and happily offers support of this project.

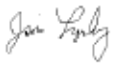
Sincerely,



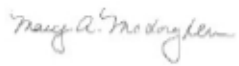
Brittney Carson, DVM, MS,
DACVS-SA
Assistant Professor, Soft tissue surgery



Jonathan Dyce, MA, VetMB, MRCVS,
DSAO, DACVS,
Associate Professor, Orthopedics



Janis Lapsley, DVM,
DACVS-SA,
Assistant Professor, Surgical Oncology



Mary McLoughlin, DVM, MS,
DACVS,
Associate Professor, Soft tissue surgery

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Laura E. Selmic, BVetMed, MPH,
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January 6, 2022

Dr. Ethan Fechter-Leggett
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
1000 Frederick Lane
Morgantown, WV 26508

Dear Dr. Fechter-Leggett,

The University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine (UTCVM) enthusiastically supports the proposed study at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) that aims to understand the occupational hazards of surgical smoke in clinical veterinary settings.

Our teaching hospital is busy with a wide range of surgical procedures in large, small, and exotic animals and will provide ample opportunity to examine air quality and its potential effect on our employees and students. As the Director of Veterinary Public Health, I will serve as the point person for this research. Our college also has an occupational health nurse that could contribute to the research as well.

The safety of our students, faculty, and staff is of the utmost importance, both during their time here at UTCVM, and as they move elsewhere during their veterinary careers. We recognize there is a research gap on respiratory hazards in clinical veterinary settings, including surgical smoke, and this proposed NIOSH study would help fill that gap and ensure the future generations of veterinarians and veterinary support staff are aware of and protected from respiratory hazards like surgical smoke as they focus on protecting animal and public health. Research that informs how we can best protect veterinary staff from occupational hazards and keep our veterinary community safe and healthy should be a top priority, and UTCVM is pleased to offer support of this project. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Marcy J. Souza, DVM, MPH, MPPA

Digitally signed by Marcy J. Souza, DVM, MPH, MPPA
Date: 2022.01.06 12:41:04 -05'00'

Marcy J. Souza, DVM, MPH, MPPA
DABVP (Avian), DACVPM
Professor & Director
msouza@utk.edu

bluepearl
specialty + emergency
pet hospital

January 13, 2022

Dr. Ethan Fechter-Leggett
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
1000 Frederick Lane
Morgantown, WV 26508

Dear Dr. Fechter-Leggett,

BluePearl is pleased to offer this letter of support for the proposed study by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) on the occupational hazards of surgical smoke in clinical veterinary settings.

BluePearl is a national provider of specialty and emergency veterinary hospitals in the United States, offering innovative procedures, high-tech equipment, and the latest treatment methods to provide comprehensive medical care to pets at over 100 locations across the country. BluePearl hospitals offer a wide range of veterinary services including many types of surgeries that have the potential to generate surgical smoke, and research that addresses surgical smoke in veterinary settings is needed. The proposed NIOSH study will help shed light on the effectiveness of surgical smoke controls in veterinary settings and will provide critical information on motivators and barriers to the use of such controls.

In our clinical care of pets, we believe in using cutting-edge technology and equipment in our hospitals that can help achieve accurate diagnoses and increased positive outcomes for our patients. Research that promotes the availability and safety of these technologies improves pet health. In turn, healthier pets living longer lives should improve human wellbeing due to the scientifically proven benefits of the human-animal bond. BluePearl also provides health and wellness resources that help our veterinary staff thrive in their life and career, and we support research that has the potential to improve the occupational safety and health of our veterinary workers. BluePearl eagerly supports this funding proposal, and we look forward to this important research.

Sincerely,

Ben O'Kelley, DVM, DAVCECC
Regional Vice President of Medicine
Mid-Atlantic Region
BluePearl Specialty + Emergency Pet Hospitals
Benjamin.okelley@bluepearlvet.com
Bluepearlvet.com

January 19, 2022

Dr. Ethan Fechter-Leggett
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
1000 Frederick Lane
Morgantown, WV 26508

Dear Dr. Fechter-Leggett,

The National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA) is pleased to offer its enthusiastic support for the proposed study at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) that aims to understand the occupational hazards of surgical smoke in clinical veterinary settings.

NAVTA serves as the voice for the veterinary technician profession within the veterinary services field. Veterinary technicians employed in veterinary clinics and hospitals handle many of the same responsibilities that nurses and other professionals perform for physicians. As such, veterinary technicians can have occupational exposures in clinical veterinary settings that are similar in nature to not only the veterinarians with which they work, but also to human healthcare nurses. In fact, in a growing number of arenas, veterinary technicians are called veterinary nurses, as this term accurately describes the level and types of work these professionals handle every day. The proposed NIOSH study would fill the research gap that exists on respiratory hazards in clinical veterinary settings, with a focus on surgical smoke, which has not been evaluated among this workforce that is critical to the veterinary industry.

NAVTA is committed to promoting the health and wellbeing of veterinary technologists, technicians, and assistants and would like to extend its support in your research efforts. Research that informs how we can best protect veterinary staff from occupational hazards and keep our veterinary community safe and healthy should be a top priority, and NAVTA is pleased to offer support of this project.

Sincerely,

Ed Carlson, CVT, VTS (Nutrition)
President